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New CBC series X Company delves into real Canadian spy stories

PAGE 14

BRACING FOR THE 'BIG ONE'

The City of Vancouver has been busy preparing for the "Big One," a massive earthquake expected to hit the region in the coming years. This screen grab is from a somewhat terrifying city video, which describes the worst-case scenario and shows people how they can get prepared. Check out what else the city has done to prepare on page 5. YOUTUBE

2nd Furlong sexual abuse suit tossed

Court. Judge says school records contradict woman's allegations

A judge has thrown out a second sexual abuse lawsuit against former Vancouver Olympics CEO John Furlong.

In a decision released Tuesday, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Miriam Gropper dismissed a claim filed by Grace West in 2013.

West alleged Furlong sexually abused her while he was a teacher at Immaculata Elementary School in Burns Lake in 1969 and 1970.

Referencing school records submitted by Furlong's lawyer, Gropper concluded that West was not a student at the school at the time of the alleged abuse.

"On the basis of that evidence and there being no evidence to the contrary, I must find that Ms. West did not attend Immaculata in 1969 to 1970," Gropper said in a written ruling.

"Her claim against Mr. Furlong, alleging that she was abused while a student at Immaculata in that school year, is not sustainable.

"In all the circumstances, I must dismiss Ms. West's action."

A statement from Furlong's lawyer, Claire Hunter, said her client is pleased with the ruling.

"The false allegations brought against Mr. Furlong have caused great pain to him and his family," Hunter said.

"He views the damage it has done to his reputation as almost incalculable."

The judge ruled that Furlong is entitled to costs.

West is one of three people who claimed they suffered sexual abuse by Furlong.

Beverly Abraham dropped her lawsuit in December.

The remaining lawsuit is scheduled to go to trial March 30. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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fortwo pure coupe	2013	Z1302244	$17,400.00	SOLD	fortwo passion cabriolet	2013	Z1301176	$23,185.00	$15,685.00
fortwo pure coupe	2013	Z1300190	$17,400.00	$10,400.00	fortwo passion cabriolet	2013	N1300510	$25,150.00	$16,650.00
fortwo pure coupe	2013	B1300331	$17,460.00	SOLD	fortwo BRABUS coupe	2015	R1561994	$25,090.00	$21,160.00
fortwo pure cabriolet	2013	Z1301068	$21,160.00	SOLD	fortwo BRABUS cabriolet	2013	B1300848	$27,855.00	$18,855.00
fortwo passion cabriolet	2013	Z1300316	$22,760.00	$14,760.00	fortwo electric drive coupe	2014	B1460625	$29,645.00	SOLD
fortwo passion cabriolet	2013	N1300319	$22,760.00	$15,760.00	fortwo electric drive coupe	2014	B1460466	$29,250.00	$20,250.00
fortwo passion cabriolet	2013	Z1301211	$23,580.00	SOLD	fortwo electric drive cabriolet	2013	R1301090	$34,385.00	$24,385.00

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Animal abuse

Tortured Surrey dog expected to survive: BC SPCA

A three-year-old dog that was tied up, beaten and stabbed in Surrey is expected to survive, according to BC SPCA investigators.

SPCA spokeswoman Lorie Chortyk said the black lab, named Ryder, is recovering after emergency surgery on Sunday.

"It's quite miraculous that this dog survived at all," said Chortyk. "It still needs to see a specialist to save its eye. It's still in a lot of pain. He's going to thankfully survive, but it's going to be a long haul for the little guy."

Police were called in the early hours of Sunday morning to the 7600 block of 146th Street, where they found the dog — lost from a nearby home — tied up and suffering from serious injuries.

Investigators say the dog was stabbed, had several items including fishhooks and lighters forced down its throat and stomach and had jewelry pinned in its eyes.

The suspect, a 24-year-old woman, was taken into custody under the Mental Health Act and transported to hospital for a psychiatric assessment.

Chortyk said animal-cruelty charges stemming from the BC SPCA investigation could be recommended by the end of the week.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

For more local news, visit metronews.ca

The many successes of CityStudio

An experiment to get students involved in Vancouver's public realm has seen massive success in the four years since it launched. CityStudio, a partnership between Vancouver's six post-secondary institutions to work with city staff to launch experimental projects throughout the city, has managed to create 156 projects on the ground with the help of 3,000 students and 180 city staff, according to a presentation to city council on Tuesday. Projects include, clockwise from top-left, a community concierge in an apartment called "Ask Lauren," a bike-repair station at Woodwards, public pianos and ideas for the plaza at Davie and Bute.

CITY STUDIO & JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

TransLink doubts derail 'Yes' momentum: Expert

Referendum. UBC professor says vote is a unique opportunity to get transit on track

MATT KIELTYKA
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An economics expert at UBC's Sauder School of Business believes the "No" side in the upcoming spring plebiscite is looking at the wrong issues.

Professor Robin Lindsey, CN Chair in Transportation and International Logistics at the university, said the plebiscite on a proposed 0.5 per cent regional sales-tax increase is a unique opportunity for Metro Vancouver to move forward with needed transit improvements.

"People should be thinking in the long-term, especially as this is the first time we've had a referendum like this in Canada on transit funding," said Lindsey. "These opportunities don't arise frequently. A lot of thought has gone into (the mayors' plan). There's only so much money, and they've had to pick what gets you the most bang for your buck."

Metro Vancouver's mayors are proposing a 10-year, $7.5-billion transit plan that includes a subway along Broadway in Vancouver, light-rail transit lines in Surrey, a new Pattullo Bridge and bus and road improvements throughout the region.

Lindsey believes a "No" vote would be the latest setback in a long string of delays for transit infrastructure in the region.

He says the fuel tax is "maxed out," bus fare can only be raised in small increments and plans by TransLink to introduce vehicle-registration fees to pay for transit improvements have twice been rejected in the past.

But instead of debating infrastructure needs, Lindsey says the campaign spun off track.

"The 'Yes' side has lost some momentum," he said. "The referendum has evolved into one about TransLink (public confidence), which is not how people should think about it."

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Mayor Robertson posts Valentine's Day PDA

Love and politics. Girlfriend Wanting Qu answers online message with "Thank you for loving me Gregor'

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Nothing says "I love you" like sharing a selfie with 90,000 social media followers.

Mayor Gregor Robertson took to Sina Weibo, a Twitter-like Chinese website, to profess his love for his girlfriend, Chinese pop star Wanting Qu.

The bilingual post stated: "Happy Valentines Day sweetheart! I'm so lucky you fill my life with love and happiness. Thanks for making my family happy too!"

It's the first time the mayor has publicly commented on the relationship since his office refused to confirm or deny rumours last month.

Robertson separated from his wife Amy after decades of marriage last spring. His party, Vision Vancouver, publicized the split to quash rumours about the mayor's alleged "philandering."

Robertson met Qu in 2013 when the she was hired as Vancouver's tourism ambassador.

Qu has documented their relationship on Twitter and Instagram, and she seemed to like the public display of affection, according to her response: "Thank you for loving me Gregor. Ps. U r a lucky man! Happy Valentines to all!"

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson shared this selfie of him and his girlfriend Wanting Qu on his Sina Weibo account. CONTRIBUTED

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Coquitlam. Investigation into 2-alarm fire underway

Investigators with the Coquitlam fire department are sifting through the ashes to determine the cause of a blaze that severely damaged a 70-unit apartment block.

"The primary investigation looks like it started on the second floor," Coquitlam Deputy Fire Chief Rod Gill said Tuesday. "We were able to contain it to the south wing of the building."

Up to 150 people were forced out during the fire at 2915 Glen Dr., located a block north of Coquitlam Centre.

The two-alarm blaze, which broke out Monday afternoon, required about 50 firefighters to knock down, causing some water damage to the other wing of the building, Gill said.

There were no reports of injured residents, although two firefighters suffered minor injuries, he added.

Kathleen Vincent of the City of Coquitlam said some displaced residents are staying with family and friends, while others are being put up for 72 hours at a local hotel.

Vincent encouraged all residents displaced by the fire to contact the Reception Centre at the Pinetree Community Centre, located at 1260 Pinetree Way.

It is expected to take many months before residents are able to move back to their suites.

Vincent added that there has been a flood of offers of assistance from the community to help the displaced residents.

Vincent said anyone who is missing pets should email the Coquitlam animal shelter (animalshelter@coquitlam.ca) with a description and photograph.

There were no reports of pets injured in the fire.

NEAL HALL/METRO

Armed forces

Warship officer charged with drunkenness

The former second-in-command of a Canadian warship has been charged with disobeying orders and drunkenness.

Cmdr. Joshua Yanchus, who was the executive officer aboard HMCS Calgary, based in Esquimalt, B.C., was charged Monday by the military's criminal investigation branch.

The offences are alleged to have taken place aboard the frigate in June 2014 while the warship was taking part in a major U.S.-led exercise in the Pacific.

Lt.-Cmdr. Mike Amirault, deputy commander of the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service, said the charges are significant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cache Creek

B.C. aboriginal couple to stand trial for poaching

A First Nations couple who claim they are being "persecuted for being Indian" must stand trial for alleged poaching in B.C., a provincial court judge has ruled.

Jay Coutts and Farah Palmer each face one count of trafficking in wildlife, and Coutts is charged with an additional count of hunting during prohibited hours. The two allegedly sold deer meat to undercover conservation officers in Cache Creek and are set to go to trial on Sept. 24.

The pair is fighting the charges, saying they violate their aboriginal rights.

In a previous hearing, Coutts said Canada's laws are made "for white people, not native people."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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City develops downtown evacuation plan for worst-case-scenario quake

Preparations. 'This could happen tonight; this could happen tomorrow,' says city's deputy manager

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Vancouver has made major progress in its preparations for a worst-case-scenario earthquake, according to a city council presentation.

In the past year it has developed a downtown peninsula evacuation plan, updated its emergency communications strategy and continued to strengthen sewage and water infrastructure, deputy city manager Sadhu Johnston told council on Tuesday.

"This is not a theoretical exercise. This could happen tonight; this could happen tomorrow," Johnston said. "We really are taking this seriously across our whole organization."

The city has completed seven actions and started working on 39 of its 56-step plan to become more resilient when the "Big One" hits.

The emergency response project starts with planning around bridges, water pipes and the sewage system, all of which are expected to sustain some damage.

City workers lower a water pipe, like the ones commonly used in Japan, into the ground for a test section in Strathcona on Tuesday. The pipes are more expensive, but the joints move, making them more resistant to earthquakes. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Millions have been spent repairing the Burrard and Granville bridges over the past few years so first responders and pedestrians can use them after an earthquake.

"It doesn't bring them entirely up to current seismic standards, but we're trying to achieve a situation where they don't collapse," city engineer Peter Judd said.

The downtown evacuation plan — buildings are expected to collapse in older areas such as Gastown and the West End — reserves bridges for emergency crews and asks people to leave by foot or boat.

Vancouver's infrastructure is in good shape, but the city could be cut off from water since most of the supply is piped under the Burrard from reservoirs on the North Shore.

The city has developed well systems underneath Langara Golf Course and Queen Elizabeth Park to meet demands of firefighters who will likely need to put out blazes, Judd said.

The city is working on low-tech ways to communicate with residents if cellphone service is jammed or down. It has developed signage and purchased equipment for a temporary media centre so it can disseminate information more quickly.

One hundred building-inspection staff members have been trained to assess structures quickly so people and businesses know whether they're allowed inside or not. More than 900 volunteers have signed up to help first responders.

While there's still much to do to improve the city's prospects after an earthquake, Johnston believes it's in a better position than this time last year.

Averting disaster

Vancouver pilot-testing new pipes

Bursting water pipes could make it impossible to fight fires and provide proper drinking water, but the city hopes that new pipes could help thwart that greater disaster.

It's piloting a small section of more earthquake-resistant pipe at Jackson Avenue and Georgia Street to see if it can connect well with the current pipes.

The new pipes are commonly used in Japan and feature segments that fit together to allow some flexibility. Workers began installing the pipes Tuesday.

The pipes are expected to be about 5 to 10 per cent more expensive than the old ones, said Brian Crowe, the city's director of water and sewage services.

But if the pilot works, Crowe hopes a local manufacturer can make the pipes to keep costs down.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Online. New website helps B.C. women escape domestic violence

Canadian researchers are looking for a safe way to link women of domestic abuse to supports and services.

University of British Columbia researcher Colleen Varcoe said less than 17 per cent of women who are in abusive relationships access support services such as women's shelters, so her team has linked up with the University of New Brunswick and Western University to launch a new online tool dedicated to helping victims get help.

The iCan Plan 4 Safety (icanplan4safety.ca) program launched in November and has enlisted more than 200 women who correspond anonymously with researchers to assess their situation, formulate a safety plan and access services.

"It's just a small percentage of the population that experience violence that use services," said Varcoe, of UBC's School of Nursing. "There is a vast range of reasons women are afraid to get help. This is a safe, anonymous way to find out what your situation is, make priorities, make a plan and get resources and support."

Varcoe said women often take the step of searching online for advice but may be fearful of having their search histories seen and don't seek further help.

As part of the iCan Plan 4 Safety study, women are taught how to delete browser history and get confidential help.

She hopes it can become a valuable tool for women unable to access community services.

At the same time, researchers can learn how to better link women to effective options.

The website was launched with little fanfare, to ensure early users were getting the help they needed safely while researchers made sure the site was working as intended.

Now, they've publicly unveiled the service and hope to attract more women (especially those in harder-to-serve situations such as in rural communities where there are fewer resources or victims of violent partners who are not men) to the study.

Before linking women with services, researchers first focus on their health and make sure their safety is looked after.

Once there's a better understanding of a woman's situation, researchers can link victims to specific services once they're willing to take that step.

Navigating all the potential options can be a challenging challenge in itself, Varcoe said.

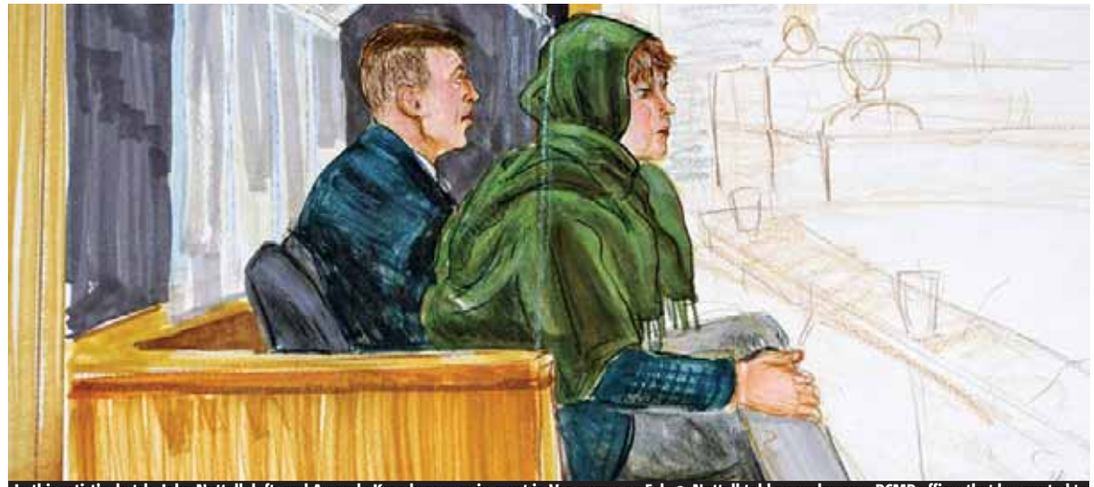
"Women may not know whether certain services are appropriate for them. Or, for instance, women with children over a certain age may not be eligible at some shelters," said Varcoe.

"So in this particular study we're really focusing on a woman's health and well-being as a basis for planning."

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Participation via phone

Women in domestic abuse situations from B.C. (as well as New Brunswick and Ontario) can also participate by calling, confidentially and toll-free, 1-844-264-4226.



In this artist's sketch, John Nuttall, left, and Amanda Korody appear in court in Vancouver on Feb. 2. Nuttall told an undercover RCMP officer that he wanted to build a pipe bomb with enough explosive power to blow up a tank, a trial heard Tuesday. FELICTY DON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'We've got enough to make three bombs'

Court. Accused terror suspect wanted to build a bomb big enough to destroy a tank, trial hears

NEAL HALL
The Canadian Press
exclusively for Metro

An accused terror suspect told an undercover RCMP officer that he wanted to build a pipe bomb with enough explosive power to blow up a tank, a trial heard Tuesday.

The conversation was secretly video recorded and played for a B.C. Supreme Court jury hearing the Crown's case against John Nuttall and Amanda Korody, who are accused of four terrorism-related offences.

The seven-hour video being played at the Vancouver trial showed Nuttall buying a "Big Boss" pressure cooker at a Surrey Walmart on June 26, 2013.

Later during the video, Nuttall goes to a hardware store to buy nails and other items, which the Crown alleges were going to be used to inflict injury to people when the pressure-cooker bomb exploded.

"We've got enough to make three bombs," Nuttall said excitedly when he gets back in the vehicle, where the undercover officer and Korody had been waiting.

"We need five nails and another clock. And Christmas lights," Nuttall said on the videotape. "I just need one bulb and a little piece of wire from the Christmas lights."

Minutes later on the video, Nuttall said: "We're going to die for Islam."

The Crown contends that Nuttall and Korody conspired to use the pressure cooker as a bomb to be planted outside B.C.'s legislature on July 1, 2013 — a jihadist plan in the name of radical Islam.

The Crown has alleged the accused wanted to do as much damage — and kill as many people as possible — during the Canada Day celebrations in Victoria.

The undercover RCMP officer, who cannot be identified because of a court-ordered ban on his identity, was posing as an Arab businessman who was trying to help the young couple carry out their plot.

The officer testified Tuesday he grew up speaking Arabic and occasionally spoke Arabic to Nuttall and Korody because they wanted to learn the language.

The jury has heard how Nuttall and Korody were previously heroin addicts but were taking methadone at the time of the four-month police undercover operation, which began in March 2013.

At one point in the video, the couple discuss needing to get several days supply of methadone so they can carry out their bombing plot.

The court was told earlier that after the pressure-cooker bomb was built, police replaced most of the plastic explosives to prevent the bomb from exploding. The couple were arrested at the end of the investigation.

The videotape will continue being played Wednesday at the trial.

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Provincial budget highlights

- Surpluses are forecast for the next three years: $284 million in 2015-2016; $376 million in 2016-2017; and $399 million in 2017-2018.
- The projected surplus for 2014-2015 is now $879 million, significantly higher than the $184-million surplus projected a year ago.
- B.C.'s economy is expected to grow by 2.3 per cent in 2015; 2.4 per cent in 2016; and 2.3 per cent in 2017.
- The budget includes no revenues from the liquefied natural gas industry, which B.C. Premier Christy Clark has promised will one day bring in billions of dollars.
- Declining natural gas prices are expected to cause royalties to fall by 36.5 per cent in 2015-2016, leaving the province with $344 million from the sector compared with $542 million in the current year.
- The province expects to end 2015-2016 with $66 billion in debt, growing to more than $70 billion by 2018.
- Child-support payments will no longer be factored into social-assistance calculations at a cost of $32 million for the next three years.
- Parents can claim $250 under a new children's fitness equipment tax credit, which translates to a maximum benefit of $12.65 per child.
- Teachers who participate in extracurricular coaching can claim a tax credit that will be worth $25 per year.
- Health-care premiums will increase by four per cent on Jan 1, 2016. Monthly rates for a single person will increase by $3 to $75 per month, while families will pay an extra $6 per month for a total of $150.

B.C. tables boastful balanced budget, but LNG boom absent

The province.
Finance minister projecting surplus of $284M for 2015-16

B.C.'s finance minister tabled a balanced budget Tuesday as he boasted that his province may be the only one in Canada to avoid falling into deficit amid plunging oil prices, but the long-anticipated liquefied natural gas industry has yet to produce one cent.

Finance Minister Mike de Jong's latest budget projects a surplus of $284 million for 2015-2016, marking the province's third-consecutive balanced budget.

"Through their hard work and perseverance, British Columbians have scored a fiscal hat trick," he said. "For the third year in a row, British Columbia will have a balanced budget."

De Jong also said B.C. may be the only jurisdiction in Canada to post a surplus budget for the current 2014-2015 budget year with the possible exception of Saskatchewan. The province's current projected surplus for the current year, which ends March 31, is $879 million.

Business Council of B.C. vice-president Jock Finlayson applauded the news of yet another balanced budget. "There are no big surprises in here," he said. "For the business world, we don't want big surprises, especially on budget day."

De Jong toned down his locker-room pep talk when it came to liquefied natural gas. B.C. Premier Christy Clark won re-election in 2013 by promising a multibillion-dollar industry that she said would create 100,000 jobs and generate enough revenues to wipe out the provincial debt.

Last year, the provincial budget was focused on the introduction of income tax and environmental laws for the LNG industry, but so far no project has reached a final investment decision.

Opposition New Democrat Leader John Horgan said the budget continues to place financial burdens on the middle class while offering a two per cent tax break to people earning $150,000 and above. He was referring to a two per cent tax increase for the province's highest earners that was introduced in 2013 and is scheduled to expire at the end of this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. Finance Minister Mike de Jong, tables the budget in the Legislative Assembly in Victoria, B.C., Tuesday as Premier Christy Clark, left, looks on. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Few new budget measures to benefit B.C. families

Poor single parents in British Columbia will no longer see their income assistance clawed back because of child-support payments, but Tuesday's budget otherwise includes few new measures that will directly benefit families in the province.

The Liberal government's almost singular focus on balancing the books left enough money for only relatively minor tax breaks, while also requiring another increase in health-care premiums.

Quoted

"Is there more that can be done that we'd like to do? Yes."

Finance Minister Mike de Jong

Ending the practice of clawing back child-support payments from income-assistance calculations will cost the government $32 million over the next three years. The province estimates about 3,200 families and 5,400 children will be affected.

It's a change the Opposition New Democrats and anti-poverty advocates had been demanding.

An early childhood tax credit starting April 1 will provide up to $660 a year for each child under six for child care. This is also the first-year parents with children born since Jan. 1, 2007, can claim one-time contributions of $1,200 toward Registered Education Savings Plans.

The budget includes a small boost to the amount of money someone can earn before they pay provincial income tax, increasing the threshold to $19,000.

Parents with children in sports programs can currently claim up to $500 in registration fees, which translates to a maximum benefit of $25 a year per child. A new tax credit will automatically provide parents already claiming registration fees with an additional credit worth $12.65 a year for fitness equipment.

Health-care premiums will be increasing next January by four per cent. That hike means a single person will pay $3 more each month, for a total of $75 per month, and families will pay an extra $6, or a total of $150 per month. People already receiving assistance paying for their health-care premiums won't be affected by the increases.

A two per cent tax increase introduced in 2013 for the province's highest earners will expire, as scheduled, at the end of 2015.

Carole James of the Opposition NDP said her party was happy to see the government end the "callous" policy of clawing back income assistance, but she said families will also be hit with increases to health-care premiums, electricity rates, ferry fares, auto insurance rates and camping fees.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anti-petroleum activists a possible threat: Mounties

The RCMP has identified "anti-petroleum" protesters as a potential security threat, fuelling concerns in Parliament that tough new anti-terror powers will be misused to target environmentalists, aboriginals and critics of the government's economic agenda.

Prepared by the RCMP's critical infrastructure intelligence team, the threat assessment, dated Jan. 24, 2014, says: "There is a growing, highly organized and well-financed anti-Canadian petroleum movement that consists of peaceful activists, militants and violent extremists, who are opposed to society's reliance on fossil fuels."

Obtained by La Presse newspaper, the RCMP document casts climate change activists as outside mainstream Canadian public opinion, and points to a handful of criminal acts between 2006 and 2013, particularly the anti-fracking protests in New Brunswick that turned violent. It predicts that, as pipeline and hydraulic fracturing operations expand across Canada, "criminal activity associated to the anti-petroleum movement will increase nationally" and calls such extremists "a realistic criminal threat."

Bill C-51, the proposed Anti-Terrorism Act of 2015, would enact sweeping new spying and intervention powers for CSIS and the RCMP to target security threats.

On Wednesday, the NDP and Green Party pushed the Harper government on just who the bill is targeting.

"Bill C-51 would expand CSIS's mandate to spying on 'interference with infrastructure and interference with economic or financial stability,'" said NDP Leader Tom Mulcair.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper mocked Mulcair, saying, "We knew that with the NDP it would be only a matter of a couple of weeks before we got into this kind of conspiracy theory." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"What is to stop this bill from being used to spy on the government's political enemy?"

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, on the proposed anti-terrorism bill

Quebec

Education minister defends strip search of teenage girl

Quebec's education minister is under fire for defending high school officials who strip-searched a 15-year-old female student they suspected of selling drugs — an incident that has shocked some, but appears to be well within the bounds of Canadian law.

Yves Bolduc said the province's schools have guidelines setting out how and when education officials can bypass police and order students to submit their clothing to a rigorous search.

"It's a question of security," Bolduc told the Quebec legislature in response to a report in the Journal de Montreal. The girl and her mother told the newspaper that school officials have been carrying out searches regularly based on a belief that the girl was selling drugs to other students. The girl's mother said the actions of school officials were "excessive" and is considering legal action.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lindsay Souvannarath, left, from Geneva, Ill., and Randall Steven Shepherd, from Halifax, appeared in provincial court Tuesday morning. The duo is facing charges of conspiracy to commit murder, among others. Police say the two were plotting a mass shooting in Halifax. PHOTOS: THE CANADIAN PRESS

A 'very unusual' case for Halifax

Crime. Two accused in alleged shopping mall threat make first court appearances

HALEY RYAN
Metro in Halifax

The man and woman accused of plotting a Halifax mall shooting sat on a bench separated by sheriffs, the woman with a small smile on her face and her chin slightly in the air, the man's blond hair falling into his eyes as he stared straight ahead.

Lindsay Kanittha Souvannarath of Geneva, Ill., 23, and 20-year-old Randall Steven Shepherd of Halifax appeared briefly in Halifax provincial court Tuesday morning and did not look at one another.

Both were arraigned on charges of conspiracy to commit murder until their next appearance on March 6.

Crown information submitted to the court shows Shepherd and Souvannarath also now face charges of conspiracy to commit arson, illegal possession of weapons for a purpose dangerous to the public, and making a threat through social media.

The RCMP say the accused were planning a mass shooting at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Valentine's Day.

"I would say (it is) very unusual for here, I certainly haven't encountered anything like it," Crown attorney Shauna MacDonald of the special prosecutions unit told reporters outside court.

The Crown says the offences occurred between Jan. 6 and Valentine's Day, and were carried out with James Lee Gamble, a 19-year-old man found dead in his Timberlea home on Friday.

A social networking website believed to be linked to Gamble features pictures of weapons, Nazi symbols and images relating to the 1999 Columbine High School massacre in Colorado.

Souvannarath walked into court first and sat wearing a white sweater, while Shepherd wore a black jacket and T-shirt, with his shoulder-length hair hanging in strands across his face.

MacDonald said she had a "very limited" amount of disclosure, but more information is expected to come from police over the next few weeks.

After being asked why the case is considered conspiracy, MacDonald said it means the police allege two people have arrived at an agreement.

"It can be a conversation," MacDonald said.

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Weapons

Putin suggests U.S. is sending arms to Ukraine

Russian President Vladimir Putin is suggesting that the United States is already delivering weapons to Ukraine.

At a news conference Tuesday in Budapest with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Putin was asked how he assessed the possible consequences if the United States decides to supply lethal weapons to Ukraine in its fight against Russian-backed separatists.

He answered that "according to our information, these weapons are already being delivered."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copenhagen

No sign gunman was planning attacks

Despite a warning from prison authorities that the gunman behind a weekend shooting spree in Copenhagen was at risk of being radicalized in jail, Danish intelligence officials insisted Tuesday they had no reason to believe he was plotting attacks after his release.

Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein was killed in a shootout with a SWAT team early Sunday after attacks on a free speech event and a synagogue that killed a Danish documentary filmmaker and a Jewish security guard and wounded five police officers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security Council

UN to meet in emergency session on Libya

The UN Security Council will meet on Libya in an emergency session Wednesday, as permanent council members expressed support for a resolution on a response to the country's crisis.

The meeting comes as Egypt presses the council to take action after ISIL posted a video of the beheading of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians.

At a meeting Tuesday between Egypt's foreign minister and the five permanent council members, "we agreed we would be working together on a draft resolution," Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told reporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France tracking many possible sleeper cells

Terror organizations. France aims to intercept the radicalization process and treat jihadi material on the Internet as a criminal act

France is tracking hundreds of people believed to belong to possible sleeper cells for terror organizations like al-Qaida or the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the country's top security official said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve laid out what has become an increasingly urgent question for European intelligence services: How to trace the moment when someone transforms from a disgruntled criminal or a disaffected citizen into a terrorist, and how to block those first steps toward radicalization.

"Four hundred targets have been identified by our intelligence services that are more or less sleeper cells, affiliated or in relation with al-Qaida-type organizations, that can strike like the Kouachi brothers," Cazeneuve said in an interview late Monday.

Said and Cherif Kouachi were French-born brothers who killed 12 people in Paris on Jan. 7, when they stormed the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. They were shot dead by police in a confrontation two days later.

Cazeneuve said he wants new measures to give intelligence services more leeway to monitor suspects' electronic communications. He is heading to the United States on Wednesday to try and persuade Internet giants to step up and help stem extremists' ability to use propaganda videos to recruit and indoctrinate new followers.

Quoted

"When you have terrorists who keep a low profile for years and then suddenly decide to act — either to obey an order from large terrorist organization such as al-Qaida or of their own volition — then you need to be able to monitor them on a long term."

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve

Facebook, Twitter, Apple and Google — all major vectors for increasingly sophisticated jihadi clips targeting potential followers in the West — will be among his stops in Silicon Valley.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kosovo marks 7th anniversary of independence

A combination of pictures shows people gathering on February 17, 2008 (top) around the Newborn monument in Pristina and (bottom) seven years later on February 17, 2015. Kosovo marked a sombre seventh anniversary of independence from Serbia as the mainly ethnic Albanian territory grapples with an exodus triggered by deep economic malaise. ARMEND NIMANI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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More than a dozen killed in Haiti in float accident

At least 16 people were killed early Tuesday in the Haitian capital after a man on top of a musical group's Carnival float was shocked by high-voltage wires above the street, setting off a panic in which dozens of people were trampled, officials said.

The accident occurred as thousands of people filled the streets of downtown Port-au-Prince for the raucous annual celebration. Video from the scene showed sparks coursing from the wire after a singer from the Haitian hip-hop group Barikad Crew was jolted by the overhead power line as the float passed beneath it. The cable appeared to have shocked several others as well.

Prime Minister Evans Paul said 16 people were confirmed dead and 78 were injured. His statement conflicted with earlier reports on the number of casualties. Nadia Lochard, a co-ordinator for the Department of Civil Protection, had said at least 20 people were killed.

Paul declared three official days of mourning for the impoverished Caribbean country. Haitian officials cancelled Tuesday's third and final day of Carnival events and announced a state funeral and vigil on Saturday for the victims.

The singer who was hit by the power cable, a man known by the stage name Fantom, was expected to survive, according to a doctor who spoke to radio station Zenith-FM. The information could not be verified immediately.

Dr. Joel Desire, a doctor at General Hospital, said most of those killed appeared to have been trampled to death as the crowd surged away from the Carnival float, one of 16 in the downtown parade.

Witnesses said panic ensued when people jumped off the float to avoid being electrocuted.

"I saw the wire falling and sparks and I started running for my life," said Natacha Saint Fleur, a 22-year-old who was near the float at the time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Employment. Bill aims to protect unpaid interns

Parliament is debating an NDP private member's bill that would give unpaid interns workplace standards and safety protections under the Canada Labour Code.

The bill, tabled last spring by Quebec MP Lauren Liu, would ensure that all internships are linked to educational programs and primarily benefit the intern, not the employer. The proposed legislation would also limit the number of hours of work for unpaid interns, and provide them the right to refuse dangerous work. As well, it would prohibit companies from replacing paid work with internships.

While some provinces, including Quebec, Ontario and Alberta, provide some protections to unpaid interns, there are no laws covering federally regulated businesses that use free labour. The Conservative government has signalled to stakeholders that it's considering cracking down on the use of unpaid interns.

NDP MP Andrew Cash says there are still too many young Canadians being hired to work for free by large, profitable corporations to essentially serve as replacements for paid employees.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 80.81¢ (+0.56¢)

TSX 15,284.61 (+19.80)

OIL $53.53 US (+75¢)

GOLD $1,208.60 US (-$18.50)

Natural gas: $2.759 US (-4.5¢)
Dow Jones: 18,047.58 (+28.23)

Makers of 'female Viagra' trying again for approval

Flibanserin. FDA holding back because of pill's lacklustre effectiveness and side effects such as fatigue, dizziness and nausea

Sprout Pharmaceuticals, maker of the twice-rejected female-sex-drive pill, flibanserin, said Tuesday it is refiling its application. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The makers of a twice-rejected pill designed to boost female libido are resubmitting their drug to American health regulators, following a recent lobbying blitz by politicians, women's groups and consumer advocates aimed at pushing it onto the market.

Sprout Pharmaceuticals said Tuesday it is refiling its application for the drug, flibanserin, adding new information requested by the Food and Drug Administration about how the pill affects driving ability. FDA scientists requested that data after their most recent rejection of the drug, in part due to results showing nearly 10 per cent of women in company trials reported sleepiness as a side effect. The company studied women's driving ability the morning after taking flibanserin compared with women taking a placebo and a common sleeping pill.

If approved, Sprout's daily pill would be the first drug for women who report a lack of sexual desire, a market that drugmakers have been trying to tap since the blockbuster success of Viagra for men in the late 1990s. But the drug has already faced a long, winding review at the FDA because of lacklustre effectiveness and side effects including fatigue, dizziness and nausea.

In an effort to break the regulatory logjam, groups sponsored by Sprout and other drugmakers have begun publicizing the lack of a "female Viagra" as a women's rights issue.

"Women deserve equal treatment when it comes to sex," states an online petition to the FDA organized by one group, Even the Score, which garnered 25,000 supporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Different approach

While earlier female libido drugs worked on hormone levels, flibanserin is the first attempt to increase sexual desire by acting on brain chemicals linked to appetite and mood.

- If approved, flibanserin would be labelled for premenopausal women with hypoactive sexual desire disorder, described as a lack of sexual appetite that causes emotional distress.

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VOICES

MY CAT IS ALMOST FAMOUS

4,500 photos, 10,000 Instagram followers and one hell of a cute feline: What Stash the Moustache Cat has taught me about making it on the Internet

Stash the cat has surpassed the 10,000 followers mark on Instagram. ELISHA DACEY/INSTAGRAM

ELISHA DACEY
readers@metronews.ca

I have taken about 4,500 photos of my cat in the past year.

I am not a crazy cat lady. I mean, I love my cats but I never took 4,500 photos of my previous pets. Or my kid. (Well, I might have taken that many of my kid.)

I am the owner of Stash the Moustache Cat. He was an experiment in going viral that's proven that to be almost famous on the Internet, you just need something really remarkable — and a lot of luck. And it helps if it's a cat.

Stash was just your average family pet (with a distinctive moustache marking on his face) in January 2014 when we at Metro decided to see if we could make him go viral.

Cats with moustaches are actually a thing online. They're called Kitlers. This is something I learned over a month of posting his photos on Instagram. When the month was done, Stash had about 1,000 followers. Not bad, but hardly viral.

So I decided to keep going on my own, posting roughly four photos a day of Stash getting belly rubs, freaking out at the patio door over the backyard bunnies and falling off of things.

It's been a year, and Stash has passed the 10,000-follower mark on Instagram. His follower count grew by 2,000 in only one night when another popular Instagram account asked me if it could feature him. His popularity is weird and hilarious to me.

Here's what I've learned:

1. Cat people are obsessed. Some people love Stash as much as they love their own kitties. They get very upset or worried if I don't post enough photos. I once posted a photo of Stash in a carrier and said we were off to the vet. It was time for his annual checkup, and we also shaved him down for the summer.

Not only were people genuinely worried something was wrong with him, I had a few people leave comments about how mad they were that I would shave my cat's fur. Stash is a real part of some of his followers' lives, and yet he's never met them.

2. The online cat community is a bully-free zone. Jerks are not tolerated.

3. When I post, I pretend that Stash is speaking. I can't believe the number of people who talk to him like he's a human.

4. The quality of the photo matters. Good photos always get more likes than mediocre ones.

5. That said, sometimes the mediocre photos get more likes, simply because a well-connected person shares the photo.

6. Stash's formula for success: good photo with mildly amusing caption, and the photo MUST contain the moustache in some way.

The experiment will continue. I will keep posting photos between meetings, in the elevator, on my lunch break, even during my daily conference call with the other Metro editors (sorry, guys).

Stash isn't viral. There are a lot of Internet Kitlers. But we've built a community 10,000 strong. Not bad for a clumsy cat with a moustache.

Elisha Dacey is the managing editor of Metro Winnipeg. Find her @elishadacey and find her cat on Instagram at StashTheMoustacheCat.

Watching the red carpet doesn't make me a bad feminist

MELISSA DUNNE
readers@metronews.ca

With the Academy Awards mere days away, people are talking — and not just about who will take home those little gold statues.

The question 'Who are you wearing?' will be asked over and over again on Sunday. I may be a card-carrying feminist but I still love the Oscars pre-show, particularly the inherent snarkiness of the question and the silliness of the red carpet in general. Other feminists disagree.

The "Who are you wearing?" query has become just one example of what some see as a deeply shallow and sexist ritual. The backlash went into overdrive this awards season when comedian Amy Poehler's Smart Girls community Twitter page posted: "The #RedCarpet is open and we want the media to #AskHerMore! Let's go beyond 'who are you wearing?' and ask better questions! #GoldenGlobes."

Um, I have a question: Really? The bad queries are half of the fun. When I'm watching award pre-shows I don't want to hear opinions from men or women on the Keystone XL pipeline. I want to know more about their extravagant outfits. Isn't that the point of the hours-long parade of Chanel and Dior and Armani, anyway? There is a time and a place for everything. The red carpet is the time and place to celebrate the glitz and glamour of Tinseltown, not ask the hard-hitting questions.

There is no denying women tend to get asked more about fashion and diets than their male counterparts. BuzzFeed, with tongue firmly in cheek, found a fun way to make sure the men were also asked some lighter questions before the BAFTA Awards. The men's answers to what they were wearing, if they would twirl, and whether they were donning Spanx, were revealing and hilarious.

And that's the point. The red carpet can be laughable; the questions should be equally so. The time to ask the male directors and producers who still largely control Hollywood some seriously tough questions is after the awards are handed out. My suggestions? Why are women often relegated to playing moms and wives once they hit 30? Can you not promote more than one standard of female beauty? Why are there not more women directing films? What's with the wage gender gap in Hollywood?

Let's #AskHimMore.

I probably risk getting my feminist card revoked for saying this, but I don't think many female stars want to be asked more at these events. These stars are savvy businesspeople choosing to walk the carpet to promote themselves, their projects and, ahem, their brand synergies.

The Oscar-winning actor Charlize Theron, for instance, always looks glorious clad in Dior. Why? Because she has a long-term advertising deal with the French fashion house. She also reportedly demanded equal pay for her upcoming flick The Huntsman after the Sony hack revealed her male co-star, Chris Hemsworth, was getting paid substantially more than her. I bet if asked about the pay discrepancy on a red carpet she would decline comment. Ask about her dress, and surely she'd purr: "J'adore Dior!"

The late, great Joan Rivers is said to have first posed the sartorial query in the '90s. The comedian once defended her ubiquitous and controversial catchphrase, telling Entertainment Weekly, in part: "Other reporters always said, 'I'm not going to ask that. I'm going to ask how (the actors) feel politically!' But actors don't want to hear that!" She was right, for the most part.

Some stars, such as Theron's paramour and two-time Oscar winner Sean Penn, have a penchant for droning on about their political views, whether asked or not. Let's hope someone has the nerve to ask the prickly Penn who he's wearing the next time he's on red carpet.

What could be sillier and snarkier than that?

Melissa Dunne is a Toronto-based freelance writer.

Charlize Theron in Dior at the 2013 Oscars. With a lucrative Dior contract, Theron is probably all too happy to promote what she's wearing on the red carpet, argues Melissa Dunne. GETTY IMAGES FILE

metro

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Iggy Azalea DAVID LOPERA

Spanish artist big ups A-listers

This should make the debate about body image issues a little more interesting. While famous women suffer punishing workouts to tone up and slim down, a 20-year-old Spanish artist is taking to Photoshop to plump them up. Like, by a lot.

David Lopera has been doing custom images for clients making celebrities like Iggy Azalea, Kim Kardashian, Katy Perry and Mila Kunis significantly rounder. And, he tells the Daily Mail, business is booming.

"Men are always writing to me asking if I can make their (celebrity) crushes look a bit fatter," he says. "These women look much better when they're overweight ... Look at my pictures and you will see that big is beautiful."

Katy Perry DAVID LOPERA

Amber Rose kuts Khloe to the kwik with Kylie kwip

What started out as some pretty decent shade-throwing by Amber Rose over rapper pal Tyga taking up with 17-year-old Kylie Jenner has broken out into an all-out Twitter war. Rose first angered the Kardashian clan by telling Power 105 that Jenner is "a baby, she needs to go to bed at 7 o'clock and relax." Which doesn't seem like such terrible advice, but tallest Kardashian Khloe mounted a tweet-based offensive on Rose. "Please don't worry about my sister who has a career and her s--- together at only 17... Please stop talking about us in interviews, mama. None of us talk about you."

There were also some frog and coffee cup emojis thrown in, for some reason.

This is huge, as it quite possibly marks the first time a Kardashian has ever asked someone to not pay attention to them. Rose did keep talking, though, responding to Khloe and invoking older sister Kim with, "I'll be that (little) whore to support my family like (your) older sister is a whore (to) support hers. We're even." And it goes on from there, including some dispute about the difference between a stripper and a prostitute. Rose even tosses in a reference to O.J. Simpson being Khloe's real father. Enjoy! And choose your sides in this skirmish carefully.

Khloe Kardashian and Amber Rose. GETTY IMAGES

Bieber gets a good old-fashioned egging

Justin Bieber GETTY IMAGES

Things are off to a messy start in the promo run-up to Justin Bieber's much-hyped roasting at the behest of Comedy Central next month. In the first video clip for the event, the tiny Canadian terror is pelted in slow-mo with eggs, hearkening back to his previous arrest for doing the same to a neighbour's house, as the video teases, "Watch Justin Bieber learn how poor, defenceless houses feel." Also, can we do something about Bieber's apparent allergy to shirts? I know he put a lot of time into all those tattoos and wants to show them off, but still.

SCENE

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Decoding life at a Canadian spy camp

Series debut. New CBC show X Company depicts agents being trained at WWII espionage school

It's 1942 and a group of Allied agents are training at a top-secret facility — not in Europe, but on the shores of Lake Ontario.

The premise behind the new CBC series X Company stems from a part of Canada's Second World War history that many don't know about, say the stars.

"It really is this thing to be proud of for Canadians," said Dustin Milligan, who was born in Yellowknife and played Ethan Ward on CW's 90210. "In a lot of ways, modern espionage, modern spy craft was developed in Canada."

Debuting Wednesday, X Company centres on Camp X, which was a spy school on the Whitby-Oshawa border.

The facility trained hundreds of secret agents to work behind enemy lines. It also had a state-of-the-art telecommunications centre.

Milligan plays Tom Cummings, an American advertising expert who specializes in propaganda and manipulation. His co-stars include Evelyne Brochu as Aurora Luft, a French-Canadian/Jewish-German journalist who is recruited into Camp X after joining the Resistance in France.

Connor Price plays Harry James, the youngest of the spies who acts as the radio operator and explosives expert. The five agents at the training centre were plucked from their everyday lives to become spies and their vulnerabilities show while they're in the field.

The other spies are played by Jack Laskey and Warren Brown. Other cast members include Flashpoint star Hugh Dillon as the leader of the camp and Lara Jean Chorostecki as the leader of the all-female staff of the telecommunications centre.

Mark Ellis and Stephanie Morgenstern created and wrote the series, which is a Canadian-Hungarian co-production that was shot over three months in Budapest.

Quoted

"They're not perfect and they're not superheroes. They are heroes, though, and to me that's extremely relatable."

Montreal-born Evelyne Brochu, who co-stars on the CBC series X Company. She also played a French scientist on Orphan Back.

In the first episode, the spies are in France. As they embark on a dangerous mission, viewers also see the perspective of the Nazis. "Our show has this really unique way of painting even the guys, seen as the villains, in a light of humanity," said Price, a Toronto native whose credits include the series The Dead Zone and the film Good Luck Chuck.

"You see their backstory, you see their motives — they're even justified in a way. So as you're watching it, you're torn between two sides, as crazy as it is. The viewing experience becomes much more personal as you relate to these real people in this real situation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Actor Evelyne Brochu plays a journalist who is recruited into Camp X. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Things are about to get 'much worse' on How to Get Away With Murder

Loyal fans of How to Get Away With Murder aren't the only ones delighting in the shocking twists and turns of the tense serial. Canadian star Katie Findlay is also revelling in the show's wild plot developments as the two-hour finale nears.

And with heat intensifying for everyone involved in the murder of philandering university professor Sam Keating, Findlay resolutely assures fans: "Everything gets much worse."

The lithe brunette, who plays trouble-prone goth girl Rebecca Sutter on the dark drama, says these remaining episodes are all about hardbitten defence lawyer Annalise Keating, played by Viola Davis, scrambling to save herself and her guilty students.

"This half of the season is Annalise in damage control, like major major damage control," Findlay notes in a recent interview from her apartment in Vancouver.

"And even among the kids, none of the previous alliances or discomfort or tensions are really allowed to matter any more. So they still exist, and everyone's uncomfortable, but they sort of have to try to put it aside as much as possible and that ends up blowing things up even more."

Desperation certainly seems to have set in for Keating and the Keating 5. Last Thursday's episode ended with Annalise planting evidence that suggested her lover Nate (played by Billy Brown) was involved in Sam's death.

Meanwhile, her anxious law students are increasingly unhinged by the investigation, as well as stunned at the lengths Annalise will go to protect them. "These back episodes sort of turn into a psychodrama because the ideas of a lot of things start to sort of eat away at the kids and at Annalise," says Findlay.

"So things that seemed relatively harmless before sort of become brainworms and burrow in there and start to disturb everyone or make everyone paranoid."

Then there's the matter of Lila Stangard's murder. Findlay says the night of her death will be revealed soon, including Rebecca's role. "This whole situation with Lila and what went down has kind of been ground zero for Rebecca because if you remember in the pilot, we find her shortly after all this stuff happens," she says. "She was dealing with this before Wes even met her in the hallway. So yeah, you will get to see a little bit of how Rebecca factors in and what went down." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian actor Katie Findlay plays Rebecca Sutter on How to Get Away With Murder. CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

Series' Canuck star

Vancouver is still home

After wrapping the season late last month, Findlay says she's now enjoying some downtime in Vancouver, which she still considers home. Although the series shoots in Los Angeles, the 24-year-old says she's resisted making an official move to Hollywood, considering herself to be "just super, super Canadian."

"I've never not lived in Canada so I have my apartment in Vancouver as more of a safety blanket. Even though I'm hardly ever here, it's really nice to come back to." How to Get Away with Murder airs Thursdays on CTV and ABC.

Comedy. Samberg chats about cocky cop character

It's just as funny to see Jake Peralta fail as it is to see him succeed. As played by Andy Samberg on Brooklyn Nine-Nine (airing Wednesday nights on City) Peralta is a cocky, competent cop, who also seems to have the diet and lifestyle of a child. He's had a few heartbreaks this year, what with quickly falling in love with Eva Longoria's defence attorney, only to have her leave him a few episodes later, but he always seems to land on his feet.

What's coming up for Jake this season?

We're going to see an episode with him and his dad, who's played by Bradley Whitford.

We all know he left Jake as a kid, so maybe he's not the best dad?

Not the best dad ... but certainly not without his charms.

Jake always has these incredibly detailed backstories for the personas he takes on for undercover work. Do you invent any of those, or does that all come out of the writers' room?

Writers room. They're really good, man. They write things in a way that it would seem like we were making it up because it feels really spontaneous and creative and insane, but it's better than that. It makes us all look like we're really cool and smart, but we're not. They are.

LISA WEIDENFELD/METRO IN BOSTON

Andy Samberg FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

FROM THE CREATORS OF *FLASHPOINT* AND THE PRODUCERS OF *ORPHAN BLACK*
COMPANY

Jamie Dornan, who play the lead in 50 Shades of Grey, will star in a new Netflix war flick launching next year. GETTY

Netflix to release war flick Jadotville

Movie. Jamie Dornan, of 50 Shades of Gray fame, will star as a UN commander

Netflix will next year release Jadotville, a war film starring 50 Shades of Gray star Jamie Dornan, the U.S. online entertainment powerhouse said earlier this week.

In a statement, the streaming video service said the movie "thrillingly depicts the 1961 siege of a 150-strong Irish UN battalion ... by 3,000 Congolese troops led by French and Belgian mercenaries working for mining companies."

Dornan is to play the role of Commander Patrick Quinlan, who led the Irish UN troops.

Netflix, which purchased the rights to Jadotville at the 2015 Berlin Film Festival, said in a statement that the film will go into production in April for planned distribution sometime next year.

"The story of how Pat Quinlan led his troops against an overwhelming force without losing a single man is one of the great stories of the 20th century, and we are proud to be working with such a talented and committed team to bring it to life," Netflix's chief content officer Ted Sarandos said.

"This film will be an amazing addition to our global original films initiative."

Also appearing in the movie is actor/director Guillaume Canet, who directed the 2006 French thriller Tell No One.

In Jadotville, Canet plays the role of the French commander who sought to defeat Quinlan and his men.

The movie, to be directed by Richie Smyth, whose resume includes well-known commercials and music videos, will film in Ireland and South Africa, Netflix said.

The world's leading Internet television network, Netflix has over 57 million members in nearly 50 countries, with plans to increase that number to 200 countries, the company has said as it accelerates its global expansion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV

More seasons for Last Week Tonight

John Oliver GETTY

HBO says it has picked up two more seasons of John Oliver's Last Week Tonight, which puts to rest any thought that Oliver would return to Comedy Central to replace Jon Stewart on The Daily Show.

Oliver just began the second season at HBO of his critically acclaimed comedy show. HBO said it has agreed to air 35 new episodes each in 2016 and 2017.

Oliver came to HBO's attention when he subbed for Stewart at The Daily Show during the summer of 2013.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawsuit

Blackberry sues Seacrest's startup

Smartphone maker BlackBerry has revived a legal battle against a startup co-founded by Ryan Seacrest, saying its iPhone keyboard rips off the design from BlackBerry phones' physical keyboards.

BlackBerry won a preliminary injunction last year against Typo Products' first keyboard. But Typo released a second-generation keyboard in December. Called the Typo2, it is a case that gives iPhones a physical keyboard below the touch screens.

In a federal lawsuit filed Monday in San Francisco, BlackBerry said Typo is still infringing on BlackBerry's patents.

Seacrest started Typo with entrepreneur Laurence Hallier in 2013. Hallier was named as a defendant, but Seacrest was not. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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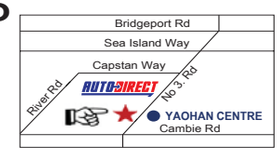

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LIFE 3

Twice the fun in the sun

Island hopping.
A trip that combines stops in Dominica and Barbados offers equal parts adventure and relaxation

When the urge to escape the winter grind strikes, and you don't want to just relax on the beach, you need to find a sun destination that also offers a mild dose of adventure. Enter the Caribbean islands of Dominica and Barbados, each with its own allure.

Getting dirty in Dominica

A rugged, hard-to reach, self-proclaimed "nature island" dropped into the Lesser Antilles, Dominica is as far away from the all-inclusive Caribbean experience as you can get. Instead of bands of tranquil beaches crawling with tourists, it's covered with lush rain forest and enough trails to keep you hiking for weeks.

Climb down Wavine Cyrique, a vertical trail of tangled mangrove roots and improvised rope ladders.

You'll quickly learn that Dominica always rewards a struggle. When you reach the bottom, you'll find yourself in a scene straight out of Pirates of the Caribbean with a secluded black sand beach, a waterfall shooting off the cliff into the rough sea and a coconut tree swaying lazily in the breeze.

Dominica is full of small astonishments like that. After scrambling over muddy rocks and wading through rivers for an hour, you'll suddenly find yourself faced with a powerful waterfall emptying into a basin of turquoise water — perfect for swimming. Snorkelling, you'll not only enjoy watching neon fish and sea cucumbers, but thanks to the island's volcanic activity, you are surrounded by sparkling bubbles that give the spot its name: Champagne Reef.

At night, you can curl up in a comfortably furnished yurt at a property called Mermaid's Secret, falling asleep to the calls of crickets and frogs.

But sometimes you need a "vacation from the vacation," as they say. Dominica's isolated natural beauty enchants, but after five days of exploring, your muscles may be tied up in knots and legs criss-crossed with scratches. Before heading back to snow, make time for that perfect beach day by tacking Barbados onto your itinerary.

The beach in Speightstown, Barbados, where Juma's Restaurant is located. PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wavine Cyrique in Dominica is a tangled trail of mangrove roots and improvised rope ladders.

Hikers are rewarded with great sights in Dominica.

Beach on a budget in Barbados

Barbados is on Dominica's flight path (flights also pass through Antigua) and it's also relatively easy on the wallet. Its postcard-perfect beaches are free and public transportation is simple to navigate. Almost every time you step onto the street, a van pulls up, ready to whisk you away.

With a little legwork you can find perfectly secluded beaches in Barbados. Juma's Restaurant, in Speightstown, is an easy favourite. Pool-calm waters, an immaculate stretch of sand and free use of lounge chairs and umbrellas make it the island's best-kept secret. For an inexpensive lunch you can buy a sandwich for $5.

On the other side of the island, try Bottom Bay. With its dramatic cliffs and foamy waters, it's clear to see why it's popular for fashion shoots. There are no restaurants nearby, so pack a picnic, but you can buy a pina colada in a fresh coconut on-site. Still, there's a time and place for crowds in the Caribbean. On Friday nights, tourists and locals alike descend on Oistins Fish Fry, an outdoor bazaar of restaurant shacks that fix up overflowing plates of fish, plantains and macaroni for $15. As the night goes on, the music turns up, more locals join in, and the stage becomes a freewheeling dance scene where everybody shows off their moves.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- **Dominica.** Wavine Cyrique, located south of Rosalie. Mermaid's Secret, in Rosalie, mermaids-secret.co.uk, $89-$99 a night. Champagne Reef Dive & Snorkel: champagnereef.com
- **Barbados.** Juma's Restaurant, No. 2 West End, Queen Street, Speightstown, jumasrestaurant.com. Oistins Fish Fry: barbados.org/oistins-fish-fry.htm

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Eggs, sausage and potatoes belong together

Brunch. This Spanish Chorizo Tortilla, which is Spain's version of an Italian frittata, makes use of pantry staples for an easy and filling meal

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

I love trying new things in the kitchen. It is fulfilling to get creative and share my passion of food with people.

That passion was my inspiration for this Spanish Chorizo Tortilla, which is the Spanish version of an Italian frittata.

This recipe is easy enough for a weeknight meal to be served up with a crisp salad, but versatile enough to serve for brunch with family and friends.

Look for chorizo sausage in the grocery store where other cured sausages are sold. You can find mild or hot varieties.

Don't have enough eggs? Use six eggs and half a cup (125 ml) of 10% cream instead of the eight called for in the recipe.

To ovenproof a nonstick skillet that has a wooden or plastic handle, simply wrap it in foil before putting it into the oven.

This recipe serves six to eight. EMILY RICHARDS

Directions

1. In a large ovenproof nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat and cook potatoes, onion and garlic for 5 minutes, stirring often.

2. Add broth, reduce heat to medium-low and cover and cook for about 10 minutes or until potatoes are fork tender.

3. Uncover and add chorizo and parsley and cook, stirring for 2 minutes.

4. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, paprika, salt and pepper and pour into skillet. Increase heat to medium and cook lifting edge with rubber spatula letting runny egg go to the bottom for about 3 minutes or until bottom is light golden and sides are starting to set.

5. Place skillet in 400 F (200 C) oven and bake for about 10 minutes or until knife inserted in centre comes out clean.

6. Sprinkle with cheese if using and broil for about 2 minutes or until golden on top.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (25 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 4 small yellow fleshed potatoes (about 1 lb/500 g), cut into 1/2 inch (1 cm) pieces
- Half small red onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 pkg (250 g) chorizo sausage, sliced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh Italian parsley
- 8 eggs
- 1 tsp (5 ml) paprika
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and pepper
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) shredded Manchego cheese (optional)

A devil-may-care approach to party snacks

1. Heat oven to 250 F. Mist a rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray.

2. To prepare toasts, slice baguette into thin rounds. Arrange rounds in single layer on the prepared baking sheet, then mist the tops with cooking spray. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until dried and crisp.

3. Meanwhile, to prepare deviled egg topping, place eggs in a large saucepan. Add enough cool water to cover by 2 inches. Set the pan over medium-high heat and bring to a boil. As soon as the water boils, cover the pan, turn off the heat and let sit for 12 minutes. After 12 minutes, drain the eggs and run under cold water until the eggs are cool to the touch. Let sit another 10 minutes.

4. Peel the eggs. You don't need to worry about keeping the egg whites intact. Cut each egg in half lengthwise and remove the yolks. Set 4 whites aside on a platter and reserve the rest for another use. Place all 12 yolks and the 4 reserved whites in a food processor. Pulse several times to chop.

5. Add the mayonnaise, butter, mustard, lemon zest and juice, garlic powder and hot sauce. Pulse until smooth. Taste, then season with salt. Spoon the mixture into a pastry bag or quart-size plastic bag. Snip off one corner of the bag, then squeeze to pipe some of the egg mixture onto each of the toasts. Top with pieces of bacon.

Ingredients

- Half a baguette (8 to 9 oz)
- 1 dozen large eggs
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 5 tbsp unsalted butter, softened
- 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- Zest of 1/2 lemon
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- Pinch garlic powder
- Hot sauce and kosher salt to taste
- 1/2 cup chopped crisped bacon

This Deviled Egg Toasts recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ELIZABETH KARMEL, A BARBECUE AND SOUTHERN FOODS EXPERT, AND AUTHOR OF THREE BOOKS, INCLUDING TAMING THE FLAME.

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VENICE IN 24 HOURS

SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGES

Savour a feast for all the senses

Find hidden gems in Italy's city of romance

Take a look at some of the many portraits of Venice by the likes of Canaletto, Tintoretto, and Guardi and you will see a city largely unchanged for centuries. Yes, Venice is a marvel of engineering, resting on wooden pillars on 118 submerged islands in the Adriatic. But more than that, it seems to float in time, a place of sinuous canals, crumbling merchant palaces, graceful bridges and bells pealing through mauve-coloured mist.

Here is a one-day itinerary that offers an insider's look at this watery charmer:

WHAT TO DO

Venice has often been labelled a city for tourists. To watch the locals in action, hit the bustling 700-year-old Rialto markets in the morning Tuesday through Saturday with its burly stevedores, raucous vendors and bargaining patrons. Fetching piles of purple eggplant, ruby tomatoes, gleaming fish and inky octopus provide a visual feast at the Erberia (vegetable market) and the Pescheria (fish market).

Given that you will spend $100 for an hour's gondola ride, the city's water buses (vaporetti) are a deal at €7 for a one-way fare, or €20 for a 24-hour travel card. Head back toward the Grand Canal and take the No. 1 or 2 that comes every 10 minutes during the day. You will see merchants' palaces from the water, as well as laden delivery boats, and clanging fire or ambulance boats en route to a call.

Get off at the Guglie or San Marcuola stop and walk away from the Grand Canal until you stumble on Venice's Jewish Ghetto (Il Ghetto), the first in the world. Still home to a small Jewish community, this is one of the least touristy parts of the city. Even today, black-clad nonas call down to grandchildren in the street and laundry flaps from the windows. The synagogues occupy the top floors of the medieval equivalent of skyscrapers. You can take a tour of them through the small Museo Comunita Ebraica or head toward the Church of the Madonna dell'Orte (another six-minute walk) where Tintoretto was a regular attendee and several of his masterpieces are casually displayed.

Hop back on the vaporetto (1 or 2) and ride it under the Rialto Bridge, right down to tourist central: Piazza San Marco and its bling-laden Basilica di San Marco. By 3:30 p.m. or so, the cruise ships have departed and you should be able to view the basilica's miles of glittering mosaics at your leisure.

WHERE TO EAT

When you have worked up an appetite, cross the famed Rialto Bridge (the first to link Venice's two founding islands) and head to Bar Pasticceria Ballarin just a six-minute walk away. For less than €5, you can throw back a cappuccino and one of the crisp cannoli siciliani, oozing a delicately sweet cheese filling.

Hunker down on the bench overlooking the canal at Vino Vero. The main tourist areas are far away, which translates to value. You will find a range of artfully displayed local appetizers like polenta, baccala (salt cod) and bruschetta, as well as tasty crostini topped with salami or chopped fish. Served with a nice glass of Prosecco, they will set you back a mere €20 or so for two people.

Finish your day over the bridge from Piazza San Marco at Osteria Enoteca Ai Artisti (Fondamenta della Toletta,Dorsoduro, 1169/A). The seafood is so fresh it practically flops on your plate. Think sea bass, lobster, scallops (whatever is on offer at the market that day), along with toothsome homemade pastas, plenty of fresh herbs and a friendly greeting from the owner ($60 to $150 Cdn per couple).

A feast for all the senses, Venice is a perfect summer getaway you can start planning today. You may even uncover some hidden gems of your own.

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Add a little sound to your professional surroundings

Career. When all is quiet on the office front, it might be best to break the silence

ROSIE HALES
TalentEgg.ca

The sound of silence may not be satisfying the needs of your noggin. ISTOCK

Breaking the silence could be your key to productivity.

For many workers, the sound of a busy office can be incredibly distracting. But for others, an environment that's too quiet can be just as unsettling.

In either case, this results in many professionals reaching for their headphones.

Dr. Amit Sood from the Mayo Clinic told the New York Times that melodious sounds can help release dopamine, which is associated with reward.

In other words, listening to music can actually result in making your work experience much more enjoyable.

That fact isn't surprising — personal music players have never been more popular among youth and adults. But what types of sounds actually increase your productivity? Read on to find out.

How does sound affect us?

Sounds can really change how we feel about an environment.

When we need to focus in on a task, using sounds can be a great way to drown out other distractions.

A study published in the Journal of Consumer Research found that a moderate level of ambient (or background) noise boosted productivity for many.

This could explain why coffee shops are such a popular spot for students and professionals to get their work done.

Ambient noise can also enhance creativity. The same study also showed how about 70 decibels of noise (the equivalent to a passenger car travelling on a highway) can enhance creative task performance.

Here are some tips to remember when searching for your ideal soundscape:

- Slow-paced sounds tend to relax
- Fast-paced sounds tend to stimulate
- Stochastic sounds, such as rainfall or coffee shop noise, are useful for working
- To avoid being distracted, you may want to choose soundscapes which include conversations, telephones or alarms.

Where can I find some good soundscapes?

The Internet is full of soundscapes. Here are a few you can experiment with:

- ASoftMurmur.com: This site lets you take your pick of ambient noises from a thunderstorm and fire, to white noise and crickets. You can make your perfect mix to cancel out any distracting noises.
- Coffitivity.com: This resource gives you the choice of sounds from a coffee shop in the morning, at lunchtime or on campus to suit whatever you're feeling.

This page also comes as an app for your smartphone so you can bring coffee shop sounds with you wherever you go.

- Noisli.com: This site lets you mix different sounds to create a soundscape just for you. You can also pick noises based on whether you want to relax or be productive.
- RainyCafe.com: Combines the noises from a coffee shop with a rainstorm.
- SimplyNoise.com: If you're simply looking to drown out a noisy environment, this site allows you to pick from 3 different colours of noise: pink, white, and brown.

It is similar to the sound you hear when your TV loses its signal, but after a few minutes of listening, you'll forget the sound is there.

How does sound affect us?

Sound affects humans in four main ways:

- Physiologically: Sound can alter our heart rate, breathing rhythms, hormone secretions and our brainwaves.
- Psychologically: Hearing different noises can change our mood.
- Cognitively: Sound affects our productivity and how much we can accomplish.
- Behaviourally: The ability to hear is a primary warning sense for us and has an important effect on what we do and where we do it.

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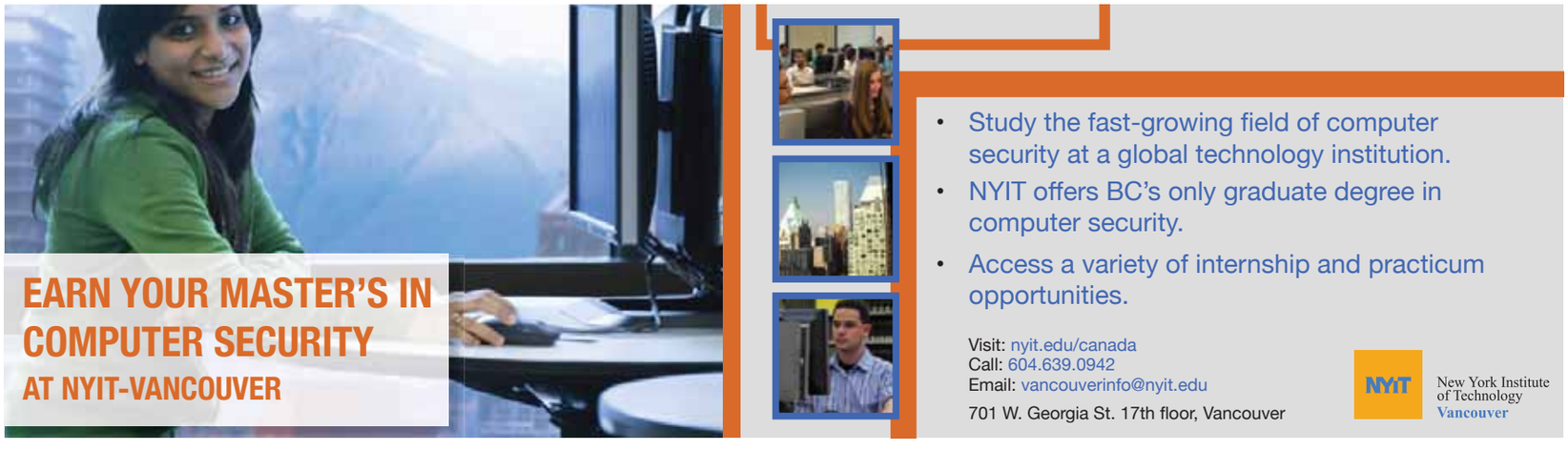
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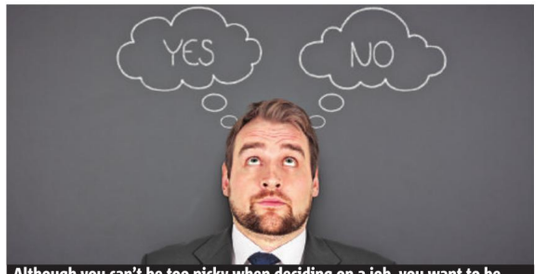
You've made the cut, and now you're thinking 'but'

Career. How to know if an offer on the table will work for you

LAUREN MARINIGH
TalentEgg.ca



Although you can't be too picky when deciding on a job, you want to be sure it is going to fit in with your lifestyle. ISTOCK

Knowing whether a job is the right choice for you can be tough.

How do you know it will advance you to where you want to go? Since you'll be devoting a lot of time to that role, how can you be sure you're making the right decision?

Here are some things to consider before you accept a job offer.

Is it suited for your lifestyle?

Maybe you're looking for flexibility in your hours. Or perhaps you're looking for a typical Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. job.

Make sure you know how flexible this position will be. Some employers won't mention that you have to work overtime or outside of regular office hours.

If you usually spend weekends out of town, a job that requires you to work weekends may not be the best choice.

Be upfront about your situation, and ask questions during the interview. Don't agree to a job that requires a two-hour commute if you have commitments before or after work that you're not willing to give up. Some employers are flexible with work arrangements, so be sure to bring this up during the interview stage.

Is the money right?

This area can be tricky. When considering your potential income, you should be realistic.

Do research on the position you're applying for, and compare the income your potential employer is offering you to others in your field. Then, based on your experience, determine an income range you think would be fair to both you and the employer.

It's best if you do this research before your interview, as you will likely be given a salary quote during the meeting.

If you feel a company is holding back, remember you have the option of politely objecting, and making your own suggestion.

However, if you decide to do this, make sure that you have solid reasons for deserving a higher wage. For example, if you have many years of experience in a related field, you should not accept the lowest pay bracket.

Young professionals and new grads should make sure they can live off of their income. But don't expect to have a ton of extra money.

Once you have some experience under your belt, you'll have some room to be more selective with your jobs and income.

Will this role help your career?

Keep in mind that if you pick this job, you do not have to work there forever.

Think about the opportunities the new job presents if you work there short-term, as well as the advantages of working there long-term. This is especially true if you're a relatively new graduate looking to break into the industry.

Is this role in the field you are aiming for? If not, what transferable skills will you learn from this position that will help you down the road?

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A pharmacy in your pantry

Sick? Maybe what you need to feel better is what's in your kitchen

JACQUELINE KOVACS
For Metro

Has a cold or flu got you feeling too miserable to even go to the drug store for some over-the-counter meds?

If so, just shuffle to your kitchen, where you can find ingredients to create your own soothing remedy.

Yes, there really is something to it. Have some chicken soup when you're sick. SHUTTERSTOCK

A dose of green tea will keep you hydrated and give your body antioxidants. SHUTTERSTOCK

Did you know

It's called "the common cold" for a reason — it's the most common ailment in the world. Some 200 types of viruses cause the common cold, and experts estimate that by age 75, most of us have spent a total of two years coughing and sneezing.

Honey

Who needs cough syrup when you've got honey? Studies have shown this sweet spread to be just as effective as dextromethorphan, the cough suppressant commonly used in over-the-counter cough medicine.

Mix honey with hot water and lemon and it'll soothe your throat, too.

Chicken soup

"There is total validity to chicken soup to help fight colds and flu," says Bryce Wylde, alternative health expert and medical director at P3 Health in Toronto, "but it really has to be true chicken soup with real chicken stock."

Green tea

A steaming cup of green tea not only helps keep you hydrated, which Wylde says is key when battling a seasonal bug, but it will also give your weary body a nice dose of antioxidants.

This will help neutralize the free radicals that come along with colds and the flu. Adding a squeeze of lemon to your tea, says Wylde, boosts your brew with limonene and a hit of vitamin C.

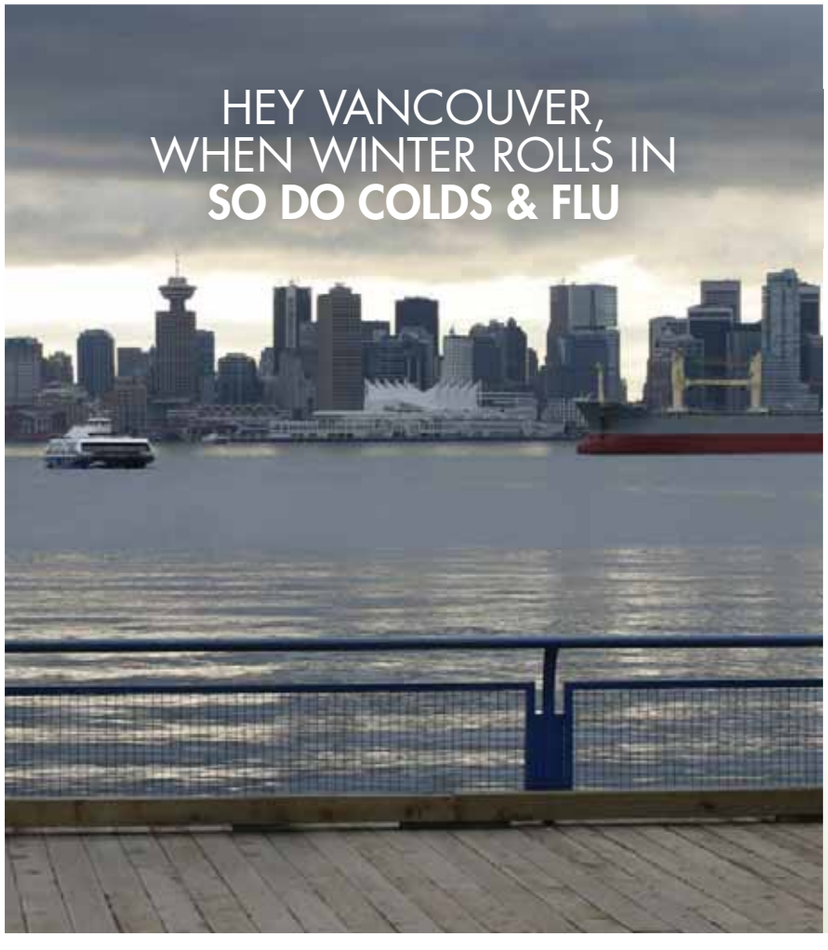
Mustard

Loosen congestion with a mustard plaster. Combine one part mustard powder with two parts flour, and add just enough water to make a paste.

Spread the mixture into a tea towel, fold the towel in half and apply to your chest — never put the plaster directly on your skin. Check regularly to make sure your skin doesn't get irritated.

Salt

Relieve and help banish your sore throat by gargling with 1/2 teaspoon of salt dissolved in a glass of warm water a few times a day. Saltwater gargles can also help you get rid of phlegm.



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NHL

Rinne leads Preds past Sharks

Pekka Rinne made a season-high 42 saves, and the Nashville Predators extended their winning streak to a season-high six straight games by beating the San Jose Sharks 5-1 Tuesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court

Bosch sentenced to 4 years in prison

The former owner of a Florida medical clinic who posed as a doctor and illegally supplied steroid injections and other performance-enhancing drugs to professional baseball players and even high school athletes was sentenced Tuesday to four years in a federal prison.

Anthony Bosch had sought a more lenient term because of his co-operation in the investigation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hernandez shown dismantling his phone in video

Jurors in the murder trial of former New England Patriot Aaron Hernandez on Tuesday were shown surveillance video of him dismantling his phone outside a police station a day after the killing and making calls on his lawyer's phone.

Hernandez had been asked to go there by police who went to his home after finding in victim Odin Lloyd's pocket a key to a Chevrolet Suburban that Hernandez had rented. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canucks goalie Eddie Lack makes a save on the Wild's Jason Pominville late in Monday night's game at Rogers Arena. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lack unflappable

NHL. Vancouver's backup goalie came up big in the Canucks' 3-2 win over Minnesota

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

In the dying seconds of a crucial Western Conference matchup, Eddie Lack came up with maybe his best sequence of saves this season.

It was a scene of chaos around Lack's net in that final minute of Monday's game between the Vancouver Canucks and visiting Minnesota Wild.

In the midst of it all — players flying in all different directions or falling to the ice as the scramble intensified — Vancouver's backup goalie managed to make several saves to secure the win.

The Canucks held on for the 3-2 regulation win over the Wild, moving to second in the Pacific Division — still tied in points at 67 with the Calgary Flames — in the process.

The buzzer sounded. Lack raised his arms in triumph.

That's three wins in his last three starts. Six points, all against Western Conference teams, including playoff-race foes Minnesota and Winnipeg.

"I knew it was going to come down to a couple game-winning saves at the end there," said Lack.

Quoted

"Once I'm in game mode, I'm just focused. I feel like I'm in the moment and not thinking too much." Canucks goalie Eddie Lack

"Before, I let a couple of those in, like against Chicago, so I really wanted to be on top of my game there."

Over the last few years, Lack has faced his share of adversity.

Yet he has maintained the same positive attitude, the same positive work ethic.

"I think his confidence is pretty high, to be honest with you," said Alex Burrows.

"Nothing really shakes him or rattles him. He's a happy-going guy that comes to the rink and he has fun. Every day he works hard and even if he's not playing, he never complains."

Lack has played much better of late, and the team has helped him out with improved goal support.

It all comes back to attitude. He has control over that much, at least.

"Once I'm in game mode, I'm just focused," he said. "I feel like I'm in the moment and not thinking too much."

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2015 Ford Fusion Energi

- **Type.** FWD, four-door, mid-size, plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)
- **Engine.** 2.0-litre I4/ Permanent Magnet AC (195 combined output).
- **Transmissions.** CVT automatic.
- **Price.** $39,999/$48,939.

Market position

• One of the most fuel-efficient midsize sedans you can buy; rated at 2.7 L/100 km equivalent combined gas and electric.
• $9,000 more than a comparably equipped "non-plug-in" Fusion Hybrid.
• Appealing to those who need/want full EV mode for short trips, but also need/want a vehicle for longer trips, without range anxiety.

Points

• Powertrain similar to Fusion Hybrid, except for larger capacity lithium-ion battery pack, which takes up half the trunk.
• Electric-only top speed is more than highway-capable at 137 km/h.
• Electric-only range with a fully charged battery is about 30 kilometres.

The Fusion Energi qualifies for several substantial provincial green car rebates.

Notable features

• Standard MyFord Mobile mobile app to remotely monitor charging status.

• Plug-in port features cool-blue light ring that pulses when charging.

• Top-shelf Titanium model features 10-way power driver and passenger seats, inflatable rear seat belts, and super classy 17-inch aluminum wheels.

Ford's plug-in hybrid bristles with tech

PHOTOS: MIKE GOETZ

Review. Ford Fusion Energi works as a hybrid, EV, and as a totally usable and good-looking sedan

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

Plug-in hybrids have yet to develop an identifiable personality and/or critical following. To most of us, they are little more than technical curiosity.

But they offer something neither a regular hybrid nor a full EV can deliver: You get to decide how much of the EV religion you want to partake of — plug in and turn on if you want to; plug out and turn off if you're not feeling it.

Truth be known, I wasn't exactly feeling it during the week of our test with the 2015 Ford Fusion Engergi (top-shelf Titanium trim level), because frigid February temperatures robbed about a third of the potential 30-kilometre range available in the Energi's lithium ion battery pack after a full night's charge.

And to get that charge, I had to run a very long electrical cord through the snow from a back-of-the-house outlet. To top it off, gas was cheap that week. Nonetheless, I plugged in and felt good about it.

It's entirely possible to drive the Energi normally so it will deplete its electrical charge before firing up its gas engine and retreating to normal hybrid mode. The Energi can go quite fast — 137 km/hr — in pure electric mode.

In a regular hybrid, you might get two to three kilometres of pure EV mode, so the gas engine kicks in before you've even figured out your radio selection. But the Energi gives you enough EV range for a total EV commute (if it's not too long), and for a real EV experience, that smooth, silent, and (virtually) carbon-free propulsion which feels like The Future.

If you are of the opinion that cars are already too computerized, this might not be your ride.

It's other main party trick is that it also gives you everything the normal Fusion does, namely terrific looks, real five-passenger seating, and excellent ride dynamics, though you do feel the extra weight of that bigger battery, and overall power is not overwhelming.

Inside is a full complement of switches and information displays, and then some, to keep you abreast of charging, depletion, range, regenerative braking, etc. There is even a coaching function to help leverage EV modes. After a bit of initial tech shock, you start to explore the functions and see that it will still be possible to be the master of your domain, without resorting to screaming and/or manual consulting.

The only downsides appear to be cost, which can be partially overcome with provincial green car rebates, and a trunk dominated by the battery pack. Taking two other hockey pals to our weekly pick-up game meant two hockey bags had to go in the back seat; the trunk only held one. On the way back, we mutually decided that hockey bags really need to go in the trunk.

Compare

1 Toyota Prius Plug-in
Base price: $37,425
Less electric-only range, proven performer.

2 Chevrolet Volt
Base price: $39,995
All-new 2nd-gen 2016 Volt coming later this year.

3 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander Plug-in
Base price: TBA
Best-selling PHEV in Europe comes here next year.

A bespoke collection driven by delicate silk

Hot wheels. Rolls-Royce to bring new Serenity to Geneva motor show

Rolls-Royce is a company that knows a thing or two about luxury and elegance, and for the latest bespoke creation, gracing its stand at the Geneva International Motor Show, it's promising to set a new standard in both.

Each of the company's bespoke collections takes its inspiration from a different source. In 2014, these sources were as varied as world water speed record breaker Donald Campbell and the dominant architectural themes permeating the world's most cosmopolitan cites.

For its latest creation, Serenity, Rolls-Royce has chosen to celebrate silk — its delicacy, its symbolism (wealth, power, royalty) — and of course, the difficulties presented to even the best craftspeople when trying to create with the material.

The show car's interior promises to be a modern interpretation of the opulent cabins of classic Rolls-Royces specified by kings, queens and emperors, and will combine complex Japanese silk embroidery techniques with a number of contemporary features.

As well as a new bespoke model, which the company claims will set a "new benchmark in super-luxury motor cars," Geneva is also expected to be the venue where Rolls-Royce takes the wraps off its next production car, which is expected to be a convertible version of its Wraith luxury GT coupé. AFP

An interior sketch of Rolls-Royce's latest bespoke creation. ROLLS-ROYCE/AFP

For more information on this sleek supercar, visit topmarquesmonaco.com. TOROIDION/AFP

Finland touts most powerful electric supercar

Drive. The Toroidon 1MW Concept is due to be unveiled at the 2015 Top Marques Monaco

Toroidon, a brand new manufacturer out of Finland, has announced an all-electric concept with 1000 kW — the equivalent of 1,341 horsepower.

The Toroidon 1MW Concept will be unveiled in a world premiere at Top Marques Monaco, the luxury car show set to take place from April 16 to 19.

Described as equally suited to the track and the open road, the Toroidon 1MW Concept was hand-assembled in Finland using artisanal techniques and high-tech materials.

In terms of pure power, according to the manufacturer's claims, the Toroidon 1MW Concept would rank between the Bugatti Veyron 16.4 Grand Sport Vitesse (1,200hp) and the Koenigsegg One:1 (1,400hp). Among all-electric vehicles, however, it is slated to be by far the most powerful ever made.

Top Marques Monaco will showcase around 60 supercars and customized vehicles, including the Evantra by Mazzanti and the Lamborghini Aventador by Hamann Motorsport. Clients will even have the option of testing these vehicles on a private section of a Formula 1 track before making their purchases.

The star of this 2015 edition is expected to be the Aero-Mobil 3.0, a car with the ability to transform into a two-seater plane.

The latest iteration of this exceptional Slovakian vehicle, which has top speeds of 160 km/h on land and 200 km/h in the air, will be unveiled to the public at the exclusive Monaco car show. AFP

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BB3859A

2010 TOYOTA PRIUS
Hybrid, FWD, hatchback silver exterior, dark grey interior, push start ignition, steering wheel integrated with stereo, bluetooth, temperature and display controls, rubber floor mats, carpet floor mats and tenneau cover included.
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BB3893A

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BB3861A

2010 MAZDA 5
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S15361B

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BB3898

2011 SUBARU FORESTER
Limited package, white exterior, dark interior, AWD, AM/FM/MP3/AUX/iPod, navigation, satellite radio, bluetooth compatible, steering wheel integrated with bluetooth, stereo and cruise controls, sport mode, large cargo area.
$171 BIWEEKLY @ 72 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $21,888

BB3908A

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BB3811

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BB3949A

2010 TOYOTA TACOMA V6 SRS
Nothing needs to be said to sell this one, its the SRS of the Tacomas! It will be sold before you get off the couch! Mint condition! Powerful 4.0 liter V6 engine equipped with tow hitch! Power group, traction control coupled with 4x4.
$268 BIWEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $28,888

BB3724

2014 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5I
AWD, air conditioning, telescoping steering wheel, power group, Bluetooth, MP3 decoder, CD player, steering wheel mounted audio controls, heated front seats, split folding rear seats, alloy wheels, rear window wiper/defroster.
$121 BIWEEKLY @ 96 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $19,888

S15203A

2010 VOLKSWAGEN GTI 3-DOOR
FWD, automatic, split folding rear seats, telescoping steering wheel, overhead console, power windows, front dual zone A/C, wireless phone connectivity, LCD monitor, leather shift knob, heated front seats, spoiler, performance tires, front fog lights, rear window wiper
$159 BIWEEKLY @ 72 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $19,686

S14842A

2008 FORD F-350 LARIAT DIESEL
4x4, 6.4LL V-8 cyl. engine, air conditioning, AM/FM radio, 4WD, single rear wheels, power steering, front anti-roll bar, variably intermittent wipers, ABS brakes, rear step bumper, trailer hitch receiver, conventional right rear passenger.
$267 BIWEEKLY @ 48 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $23,888

S15032A

2008 MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS C300
4MATIC, AWD, V6 engine, overhead console, air conditioning, telescoping steering wheel, power group, weather band radio, premium audio system, steering wheel mounted audio controls, heated leather seats, power moonroof.
$256 BIWEEKLY @ 48 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $22,998

S14887A

2009 TOYOTA COROLLA XRS
FWD, 5 passenger, only 120,787 km's, bright red sporty exterior, dark interior, hood deflector, rear spoiler, fog lights, tilt and telescoping steering wheel integrated with stereo controls.
$121 BIWEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS — SALE PRICE $13,888

BB3779

2015 SUBARU FORESTER
Convenience package, AWD, air conditioning, telescoping steering wheel with mounted audio controls, v, AM/FM/CD/MP3, heated front seats, power driver seat, split folding rear seats, power group, alloy wheels.
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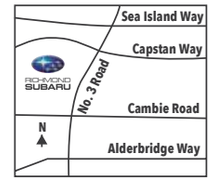

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Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment

Sonata plug-in hybrid may allow many drivers to turn off the gas

Korean automaker Hyundai rolled out its 2016 Sonata Plug-in Hybrid at the recent auto show in Detroit, saying it will travel up to 35 kilometres on battery power alone before the four-cylinder gas engine comes into the picture. The company says many short-distance drivers, particularly those in urban areas, will be able to get through most days without having to engage the car's 154-horsepower engine. The lithium polymer battery pack gives it an all-electric range that is about twice that of the current Toyota Prius when driven in EV Mode. The vehicle will be built in South Korea and go on sale in select markets later this year. No price was announced.

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

The 2016 Hyundai Sonata hybrid will travel 35 kilometres on electricity alone before the gas engine is required.

Bolt EV would embrace affordability

Knowledge gained by Chevrolet in producing its Volt and Spark electric vehicles has allowed General Motors to make "tremendous strides" in technologies that make it easier, and more affordable, for customers to buy into the all-electric movement. Enter the Bolt EV Concept, an electric compact designed to offer 320 kilometres of range and starting at about $37,000. It's designed "for attainability, not exclusivity," said GM CEO Mary Barra, who added that electrification "is a pillar for future transportation, and needs to be affordable for a wider segment of customers." Barra didn't say if GM will put the Bolt into production, but with a send-up like that, how could they not?

The Bolt is just a prototype, with GM studying its feasibility. The key selling points are a 320-km range and a price of about $37,000.

Shift points

- With steel and aluminum giving way to carbon composite materials that are lighter and stronger, scientists are looking at ways to build cars using cotton and other botanical fibres that can be formed into new types of hybrid composites.
- Hyundai showed its hydrogen-powered Intrado concept at the recent Montréal International Auto Show, for the first time in North America. Named for the underside of an airplane's wing that provides aerodynamic lift, it sports a carbon-fibre frame, lightweight parts and Hyundai's latest hydrogen fuel-cell powertrain.
- Utah-based Via Motors has passed U.S. environmental certification, allowing it to deliver its range-extended electric vans, pickups and sport-utility vehicles to fleet customers.

Wheelys 2 is a coffee shop on wheels

Sweden's Nordic Society for Invention and Discovery has developed the Wheelys 2 for budding entrepreneurs: an electric-assist tricycle that doubles as a mobile coffee shop. Unlike the non-electric Wheelys 1 refreshment-stand-on-wheels, this second model adds electric- and/or manually pumped running water, a liquid-crystal-display menu board that links to the operator's smartphone, a 20-litre water tank, a music speaker, a router for turning the tricycle into a Wi-Fi hot spot and an adjustable roof that lowers for riding, reports Gizmag. Its on-board battery provides power to the electric drive-assist motor, and solar panels help charge the battery when the mobile café is parked. The Nordic society is currently raising production funds for Wheelys 2 through Indiegogo.

Fuel efficiency rated as a top concern among new-car shoppers

Here's an encouraging sign that drivers are finally starting to worry about the environment. Despite gasoline prices being at a six-year low, fuel economy remains the most important criteria for shoppers when buying a new car. So concludes J.D. Power in its 2015 U.S. Avoider Study, in which the researcher polled 30,000 owners of new vehicles in April and May of 2014. It found that of all the factors those shoppers considered when buying their new car, 14 per cent cited fuel economy as their top concern, more than any other criteria on the list of questions asked.

BMW electric car sales are strong, and growing

After little more than a year in production, BMW's all-electric i3 city car has surpassed many industry sales projections. The company says it sold more than 16,000 i3s globally in 2014 (at a starting price in Canada of $45,000), along with 1,741 i8 electric sports cars (starting at $145,000). Both vehicles are built in the same flexible plant in Germany, which has recently shifted more of its production capacity to the i8, "to reduce customer waiting times to a better level."

Both the i8 electric sports car, below, and the i3 electric city car, right, are built at the same BMW plant in Germany.

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2015 Tiguan 2.0T Trendline

Highline model shown

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*Limited time finance purchase offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit based on a new and unregistered 2015 Tiguan 2.0T Trendline base model with 6-speed manual transmission with base MSRP of $26,600, including $1,610 freight and PDI, financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments starting from $292. $2,850 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $25,550. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. **$500 discount on MSRP available on cash purchase, finance or lease of new and unregistered 2015 Tiguan gas models (GLI models excluded). †**Bi-weekly equivalent lease payments of $108 on the Tiguan shown for example purposes only. Actual lease payments start at $238 and must be made monthly, not bi-weekly. Bi-weekly payment amount shown includes $500 bonus.** Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2015 Tiguan 2.0T Trendline base model with 6-speed manual transmission and base MSRP of $26,600. $1,610 freight and PDI included. 48-month term at 1.9% APR. $3,395 down payment and $290 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation: $14,819. 64,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. ††2015 Volkswagen Tiguan 2.0T 4MOTION® received a 5-star side-crash rating. Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (safercar.gov). Crash performance was based on a U.S.-equipped vehicle. Some features on that model may be optional or not available in Canada. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers end March 2, 2015 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Model shown: 2015 Tiguan 2.0T Highline R-Line, $41,240. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Das Auto & Design" and "Tiguan" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2015 Volkswagen Canada.

Demographics play into new car features

Driving Force. Ford is tracking worldwide trends in or to build technology for universal needs

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

What does it take to build a car that people want to buy?

Along with the mechanical components, automakers also look at non-automotive things, including how different generations react to such diverse items as food, phones, and health care.

Ford recently released its third annual report on trends, which it uses to try to understand the needs of different buyers, including the emerging Generation Z.

"It's really a discussion starter and a primer for brainstorming," says Sheryl Connelly, Ford's global trends and futuring manager.

"I'm often asked if you can draw a direct line from a trend to a new feature, but it's not always that linear.

"You can use this many ways, and it could lead to new ideas, but more commonly it becomes part of the business case of why something should be added to a car."

A major issue with vehicles is that they can take three years or more from concept to marketplace, while consumer trends and preferences can change dramatically in that time.

"We try to imagine the future that has yet to be imagined by anyone else, and that's where we use tools like tracking global trends to understand how things could change," Connelly says.

"I'll try to identify a trend and determine if it has staying power."

It's especially difficult to build and market a car that appeals to multiple generations. Baby boomers saw a car as their gateway to adulthood, Connelly says, while for millennials, cellphones give them freedom and access.

In addition to its own work, Ford is reaching out to external collaborators to come up with new apps for vehicle infotainment systems, including a one that sends a text to everyone in the driver's social circle asking them not to send any messages until they receive confirmation that the driver is at his or her destination.

Vehicle companies are often racing to keep up with ever-changing trends in technology. CONTRIBUTED

Carmakers don't just look at the market where they're designing and building a car, but rather at society worldwide to see what the future may hold.

They also have to consider an aging population: Every seven seconds in North America, someone turns 65.

"You think about how reduced response time, impaired vision and limited range of motion could affect how we engineer the vehicles," Connelly says.

"But while we might have been inspired for these by aging drivers, we would never market it that way. We use universal design so it appeals to all drivers of all ages and physical conditions."

History of innovation

- In 2007, Ford was the first automaker to participate in the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.
- Before a feature is added, it has to prove its worth to consumers and remain within the vehicle's development budget.
- Planners look at social, technological, economic, environmental and political trends, known as STEEP.

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Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There's an air of mystery about you right now, and others are having a hard time working out what you are up to. Chances are you're not up to much, but it amuses you to have them think otherwise.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Focus on your dreams and wishes and don't worry if they seem a bit far-fetched. Today's new moon makes all things possible, so aim high.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The sun's move into the career area of your chart today means you can win friends and influence people, if you make the effort.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Should you stay quiet on an issue you have strong opinions about, just to keep things calm? No, you should not. Speak up and let the world know what you believe.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If your sixth sense tells you that someone is not to be trusted you must not ignore it. Err on the side of caution.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
As the sun moves into the relationship area of your chart today you will need to start working more closely with certain individuals. In the long term it will be worth it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Try not to push yourself quite so hard over the next few days. You can save a lot of time and energy by learning from other people's mistakes.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The sun moves into the most dynamic area of your solar chart today, marking the start of a much more upbeat phase in just about every area.

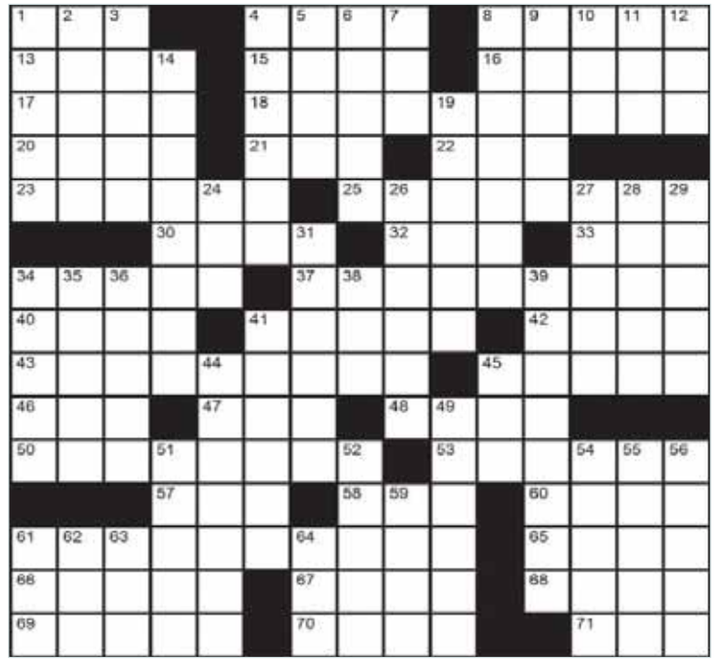
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The cosmic changes now taking place will help you get to grips with issues that have been causing you grief. Time to move on.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Aim to be on the move today because it is the people you meet along the way who will make things happen for you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
It will pay you to be friendly to everyone you meet today, even those who have not always been friendly to you in the past. Your most pressing concern now is to make some extra money.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a hugely important day for you. Not only is there a new moon, but the sun's move into your sign means a new start is possible. How and where in your life would you like to wipe the slate clean?

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. English horn, __ anglais
4. Land measure, e.g.
8. Mr. Nicholson's
13. With: French
15. Old Testament twin
16. Mixtures
17. Biblical peak
18. Quebec municipality on Lac-Saint-Pierre
20. Mr. Hershiser
21. Pup's bark
22. Palm's place, puny-ly
23. I __ __ Pieces
25. Crystal __, Juno-winning country singer
30. Cut _ __ (Dance)
32. One: Spanish
33. Poet's "atop"
34. Glad
37. Online shopper's selecting-stuff button: 3 wds.
40. Regrettably
41. Self-respect
42. Mr. Carrey's
43. Governor General of Canada spouse's title, __ Consort
45. Salon product
46. Fair-hiring letters
47. Hole-punching tool
48. British singer Ms. Henderson
50. Hall of Fame's new member
53. New __ (Big Apple denizen)
57. Feminine pronoun
58. Basic learning, informally
60. Bout ender, informally
61. King found in that parking lot in England in 2012: name + Roman Numeral
65. Poet Mr. Pound
66. Grande __, Quebec City's popular street
67. Australian band
68. Transportation mode
69. Bagpipes sound
70. Teas: French
71. Uncle on Family Ties

Down
1. __ __ soup (Pantry item)
2. Turn ___ new leaf
3. Ms. Wilson
4. Bachman-Turner Overdrive song: 2 wds.
5. Mr. Morales
6. Bivouacs
7. Q. "Is '__' _ French pronoun?" A. "Oui."
8. Face/Off (1997) director: 2 wds.
9. Saskatchewan village
10. U.S. President, to the mil.
11. __-i-Noor Diamond
12. Compass dir.
14. Slump
19. Singer/actress Ms. Moore
24. Attempt
26. Football formation
27. What stuffy rooms have in them: 2 wds.
28. Skin layer
29. Skilled at crafts
31. Swish mouthwash
34. __ _ Told You Lately
35. In the Skin of _ __ (Novel by Canadian author Michael Ondaatje)
36. Walked nervously
38. Day: Spanish
39. _._. __ (Pamela Anderson's Baywatch role)
41. It looks like matte silver
44. Celebrity cook Ms. Ray
45. __-mo replay
49. Music and __ (2007)
51. Movies attendant
52. Actor, __ von Stroheim
54. Canadian Heritage River in Nunavut
55. High nest (var. sp.)
56. Willy Wonka creator Mr. Dahl
59. Travel by horse
61. Univ. dorm supervisors
62. Variety
63. Gladiator's 151
64. Info, for short

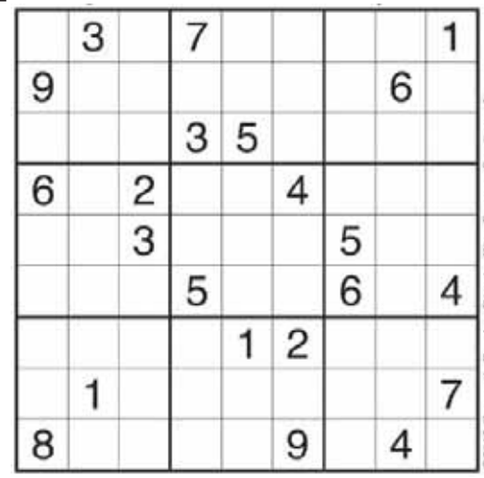
Yesterday's Crossword

Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	7	9	5	6	8	3	2
6	3	5	1	2	8	4	7	9
2	8	9	3	7	4	6	1	5
9	6	4	2	1	3	5	8	7
7	1	3	8	4	5	2	9	6
8	5	2	6	9	7	3	4	1
5	7	6	4	3	1	9	2	8
4	9	8	7	6	2	1	5	3
3	2	1	5	8	9	7	6	4

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MSRP **$17,245**** includes freight and PDI. Model shown: FB2E2FEX

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LEASE FROM **$40*** @ **2.99%** APR# **$0 down‡**

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MSRP **$16,070**** includes freight and PDI. Model shown: GK5G3FE

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- Multi-angle rearview camera
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†Based on IHS Automotive, Polk Canadian New Retail Vehicle Registrations as of CYTD November 2014 for the Compact SUV/Compact Car/Subcompact Car segments as defined by Honda Canada Inc. *Limited time weekly lease offer and all other offers are from Honda Canada Finance Inc., on approved credit. #The weekly lease offer applies to a new 2015 CR-V LX 2WD model RM3H3FES/Civic DX model FB2E3FEX/Fit DX model GK5G3FE ("Specified Models") for a 60-month period, for a total of 260 payments of $69.99/$41.81/$39.97 leased at 1.99%/0.99%/2.99% APR based on applying $400.00/$350.00/$1050.00 "lease dollars" (which are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes). ‡In order to achieve $0 down payment, dealer will cover the cost of tire/battery tax, air conditioning tax (where applicable), environmental fees and levies on the 2015 CR-V LX 2WD, Civic DX and Fit DX only on customer's behalf. Down payment of $0.00, first weekly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $18,171.40/$10,894.60/$10,392.20. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. **MSRP is $27,685/$17,245/$16,070 including freight and PDI of $1,695/$1,495/$1,495 based on new 2015 Specified Models described above. License, insurance, registration and taxes are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. ΩFor more information about the 2015 Motor Trend Sport/Utility of the Year® award, visit http://www.motortrend.com/roty/theyear/suv/2015_honda_cr_v_is_the_motor_trend_suv_of_the_year/ ΩFor more information about the AJAC's Best Small Car (Under $21,000) award, please visit: http://www.ajac.ca/web/coty/2015/comparison_category.asp?cat=176 "#/"" Prices and/or payments shown do not include a PPSA lien registration fee of $30.31 and lien registering agent's fee of $5.25, which are both due at time of delivery and covered by the dealer on behalf of the customer on Specified Models only. Offers valid from February 3rd through March 2nd 2015 at participating Honda retailers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid only for British Columbia residents at BC Honda Dealers locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.bchonda.com or see your Honda retailer for full details.